

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1 - 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a stent within a body comprising:
providing a catheter having an inner shaft, with a ring disposed on the inner shaft, the ring having discontinuous protrusions at different circumferential positions, a stent mounted around the inner shaft, and a sheath having a longitudinal length positioned around the stent; the protrusions having an outside diameter at least as great as the outer diameter of the mounted stent;

positioning a distal end of the catheter at a delivery site within the body by advancing the catheter through a body passageway;

translating the sheath relative to the stent;

releasing the stent from the catheter at the delivery site; and

removing the catheter from the body.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising providing a handle with an actuator that is coupled to the sheath such that the actuator can translate the sheath along a longitudinal axis of the catheter to expose the stent.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising providing a stent formed of a self-expanding material.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising providing a stent having a plurality of helically wrapped strands forming interlocking joints and a plurality of strands forming cross joints.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising providing a stent having a tubular body with a plurality of cells, the cells being formed by one or more strands extending between regions of intersection, at least some of the regions of intersection having helically wrapped strands forming interlocking points such that the joints extend longitudinally relative to the tubular body.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the interlocking points each extend circumferentially around the stent.

28 - 40 (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) A method of delivering a stent within a body comprising:

providing a catheter having an inner shaft, with a ring disposed on the inner shaft, the ring having discontinuous protrusions at different circumferential positions, a stent mounted around the inner shaft, and a sheath having a longitudinal length positioned around the stent; the protrusions having an outside diameter at least as great as the outer diameter of the mounted stent and extending through a portion of the proximal end of the stent;

positioning a distal end of the catheter at a delivery site within the body by advancing the catheter through a body passageway;

translating the sheath relative to the stent;

releasing the stent from the catheter at the delivery site; and

removing the catheter from the body.

42. (New) A stent delivery system comprising:

a catheter having an inner shaft;

a ring disposed on the inner shaft, the ring having discontinuous protrusions at different circumferential positions;

a stent mounted around the inner shaft, the protrusions having an outside diameter at least as great as the outer diameter of the mounted stent and extending through a portion of the proximal end of the stent; and

a sheath having a longitudinal length positioned around the stent.

43. (New) A method of assembling a stent delivery system comprising:

a catheter having an inner shaft;

disposing a ring on an inner shaft of a catheter, the ring having discontinuous protrusions at different circumferential positions;

mounting a stent around the inner shaft, the protrusions having an outside diameter at least as great as the outer diameter of the mounted stent and extending through a portion of the proximal end of the stent; and

positioning a sheath having a longitudinal length around the stent.